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It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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Reports

Item#1

7 Reasons to Expect US Manufacturing Resurgence. YaleGlobal. Farok J. Contractor. August 7, 2012.

The U.S. may be a service economy, but it's still the world's largest manufacturer. There are many reasons to remain bullish on U.S. manufacturing and the American worker, suggests Farok Contractor. U.S. firms invest in high-tech equipment, and the U.S. worker is tops in adding value per hour on products. Recent economic difficulties also help fuel a manufacturing resurgence: falling wages allow the U.S. to compete with low-cost China; anxious Americans work long hours; high energy prices and an uptick in natural disasters could prompt multinationals to relocate factories closer to the big US market. Contractor also points to factors that could stall the resurgence: U.S. students show little interest in science or engineering. And because American workers enjoy great mobility, U.S. manufacturers hesitate to provide apprenticeships that provide state-of-the-art training. Tough economic conditions could usher in new serious attitudes on career and education choices.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/7-reasons-expect-us-manufacturing-resurgence> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#2

Culture, Identity, and Information Technology in the 21st Century: Implications for U.S. National Security. Strategic Studies Institute. Pauline Kusiak. August 8, 2012.

The author describes strategic trends in cultural change and identity formation in the 21st century and suggests that the beliefs and values of foreign societies may increasingly, and more directly, impact our own national security in a future dominated by information technology.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=1122> [HTML format with links].

Item#3

Federal Real Property: Improved Data and a National Strategy Needed to Better Manage Excess and Underutilized Property. Testimony, U.S. Government Accountability Office. August 6, 2012.

The testimony discusses the federal government's efforts to collect data on its excess and underutilized real property assets and the need to better and more effectively manage these assets. In 2004, the President issued an executive order establishing the Federal Real Property Council (FRPC). The executive order required the FRPC to work with the General Services Administration (GSA) to establish and maintain a single, comprehensive database describing the nature, use, and extent of all real property under the custody and control of executive branch agencies, except when otherwise required for reasons of national security. The FRPC created the Federal Real Property Profile (FRPP) to meet this requirement and began data collection in 2005. Following the implementation of the executive order and nation-wide data collection efforts, GAO has reported that agencies continue to face challenges with managing excess and underutilized properties.

<http://gao.gov/assets/600/593297.pdf> [PDF format, 8 pages, 148.48 KB].

Item#4

How Defense Austerity Will Test U.S. Strategy in Asia. National Bureau of Asian Research. Michael C. Horowitz. August 2012.

Recognizing the vital role that a peaceful and stable Asia-Pacific plays in ensuring overall global security, the United States has announced plans to rebalance its overall defense efforts toward the region. At the June 2012 Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta stated that "all of the U.S. military services are focused on implementing the president's guidance to make the Asia-Pacific a top priority." Unfortunately, the looming "fiscal cliff" facing the U.S. has large-scale implications for its role in Asia. The 2011 Budget Control Act includes almost \$500 billion in automatic cuts to defense spending that will be triggered if Congress fails to pass a deficit reduction bill by January 2, 2013. These cuts would come on the heels of existing reductions of about \$487 billion, intended to increase efficiency and decrease the size of ground forces over the next ten years. Consequently, U.S. decision-makers face the difficult task of both addressing current financial realities and implementing an ambitious new strategic agenda in the Asia-Pacific.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.nbr.org/publications/analysis/pdf/Brief/080712_Horowitz_DefenseAusterity.pdf [PDF format, 2 pages, 224.25 KB].

Item#5

Little Public Awareness of Outside Campaign Spending Boom: What's a 'Super PAC?' Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. August 2, 2012.

The public is hearing little about increased spending by outside groups in the 2012 election. Just 25% have heard a lot about outside spending by groups not associated with the candidates or campaigns. Three-quarters are hearing a little or nothing at all about this. And just 40% can correctly identify the term "Super PAC."

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/2012/08/02/little-public-awareness-of-outside-campaign-spending-boom/> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#6

Relief from Deportation: Demographic Profile of the DREAMers Potentially Eligible under the Deferred Action Policy. Migration Policy Institute. Jeanne Batalova and Michelle Mittelstadt. August 2012.

As many as 1.76 million unauthorized immigrants under age 31 who were brought to the United States as children, a population known as DREAMers, could gain a two-year reprieve from deportation, according to updated MPI estimates that reflect more detailed eligibility guidelines for the deferred action policy being implemented by the Department of Homeland Security. The Fact Sheet offers estimates on the age, educational attainment, state of residence, country and region of birth, workforce participation, and gender of prospective beneficiaries.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/FS24_deferredaction.pdf [PDF format, 10 pages, 738.09 KB].

Item#7

The Rise of Residential Segregation by Income. Pew Research Center Social & Demographic Trends. Richard Fry and Paul Taylor. August 1, 2012.

Upper- and lower-income Americans are more likely now than 30 years ago to live in economically segregated neighborhoods, according to the analysis. Residential segregation by income has risen in 27 of the nation's 30 largest metropolitan areas since 1980, with the big three in Texas -- Houston, Dallas and San Antonio -- leading the way.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/files/2012/08/Rise-of-Residential-Income-Segregation-2012.2.pdf> [PDF format, 25 pages, 203.75 KB].

Item#8

Romney's *Personal* Image Remains Negative. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. August 2, 2012.

By a 52% to 37% margin, more voters say they have an unfavorable than favorable view of Mitt Romney. Barack Obama's image is, by comparison, more positive, though both face lower favorability ratings than most presidential candidates in recent elections. Obama continues to hold a sizable lead over Romney among registered voters, though his edge is narrower in battleground states.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/2012/08/8-2-12-Political-Release.1.pdf> [PDF format, 21 pages, 53 KB].

Item#9

Silver Linings in China's Slowdown. Council on Foreign Relations. Patrick Chovanec. August 1, 2012.

China's global investment boom is slowing, which could affect its trading partners. But its economy does not have to be doomed to slow growth, says Patrick Chovanec.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.cfr.org/china/silver-linings-chinas-slowdown/p28771> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#10

South China Sea: New Arena of Sino-Indian Rivalry. YaleGlobal. Harsh V. Pant. August 2, 2012.

A worrisome tussle is underway over the South China Sea, according to the author. China is preparing to auction off two sections that are widely recognized to fall within Vietnam's exclusive economic zone, 200 nautical miles offshore, even after Hanoi turned the exploration rights over to India. The discord between China and India is not limited to maritime border and exploration rights, argues the author, but

reflects "strategic rivalry between two rising powers in the Asian landscape." China is boxing India into a corner, Pant claims, forcing it to defend freedom of navigation, international law, relationships with other East Asian states and its own credibility as a rising power. China's aggressive moves, reaching far into the Indian Ocean while claiming sovereignty for the South China Sea, could be at odds with its own long-term interests, spreading uncertainty and mistrust among neighbors. It could only cement its reputation as a regional bully and rally other states, reinforcing desire for a trouble-free South China Sea.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/south-china-sea-new-arena-sino-indian-rivalry> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#11

Unattended but Not Undernourished: Young Children Left Behind in Rural China. International Food Policy Research Institute. Alan de Brauw and Ren Mu. Web posted on July 30, 2012.

The unprecedented, large-scale, rural-to-urban migration in China has left many rural children living apart from their parents. Yet the consequences for child development of living without one or more parents due to migration are largely unknown. The study examines the impact of parental migration on one measure of child development, the nutritional status of young children in rural areas. The results show that parental migration has no significant impact on the height of children but that it improves their weight.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp01191.pdf> [PDF format, 32 pages, 1.03 MB].

Item#12

Weathering the Recession: The Financial Crisis and Family Wealth Changes in Low-Income Neighborhoods. Urban Institute. Leah Hendey et al. August 7, 2012.

The report looks closely at what happened to assets, debts and home equity for families living in low-income neighborhoods during the Great Recession, using data from the longitudinal Making Connections Survey. It finds that both average savings and debt amounts increased between 2005/06 and 2008/09, but asset and debt levels remained lower for vulnerable families, and low-income families disproportionately lost equity during the crisis. Yet even in 2008/09, home equity was substantial and an important component of wealth (\$66,000, more than four times as much as families had in savings) for the nearly half of families who were homeowners.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412626-Weathering-the-Recession-The-Financial-Crisis-and-Family-Wealth-Changes-in-Low-Income-Neighborhoods.pdf> [PDF format, 28 pages, 1.41 MB].